Load manager 60 comprises a distributed queue 62 and a confirmation manager 64. In one embodiment, distributed queue 62 forms part of a commercially available middleware program. While any of various commercially available middleware products could be used, one embodiment of the invention uses TIB™ available from TIBCO Software Inc., Palo Alto, California, U.S.A. whose URL is [tibco.com] "tibco.com". Other commercially available middleware products that can be used include MQ Series from IBM Corporation, Armonk, New York, U.S.A., Microsoft MessageQueue (MSMQ) from Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington, U.S.A., and DEC MessageQueue from Digital Equipment Corporation, Maynard, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 21, is amended as follows:

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of [instructing a processor to provide] providing fault tolerance in a computer network, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. The method begins at 200.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set is intended to reflect amendment of previously pending claims 22 and 23, and addition of new claims 32-36. Claims 1-36 are now pending in the above identified application. The specific amendments to individual claims are detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

22. (Amended) A computer network comprising:

a plurality of clients;

a plurality of workflow engines; and

at least one computer program, the computer program operating [the computer network] in a fault-tolerant manner and [comprising] performing the operations of:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

[a distributed queuing capability] assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow

engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been completed by the first workflow engine; and

if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine.

23. (Amended) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.

Please add the following new claims 32-36.

32. (New) An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having instructions for instructing a processor forming part of a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions, when accessed, result in a machine performing:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been completed by the first workflow engine; and

if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine.

33. (New) The article recited in claim 32, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.

34. (New) The article recited in claim 32, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

35. (New) The article recited in claim 34, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.